



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mitch Chandran

**ABOVE**—Master Sgt. Lori Clark, first sergeant for the 150th Fighter Wing, and Chief Master Sgt. John Montford, command chief master sergeant for the 150th Fighter Wing, use the buddy system to ensure each are totally protected while wearing the chemical warfare gear ensemble.

**RIGHT**—Staff Sgt. Lori Godard, social actions technician for the 150th Fighter Wing, calls the unit’s command post about unexploded ordnance she found outside her building during an area sweep after an “attack.”



# Air National Guard’s 150th Fighter Wing serious about readiness

**BY TECH. SGT. MITCH CHANDRAN**  
150th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air National Guard members demonstrated their readiness to deploy and also proved they could fulfill their missions in heightened combat conditions to include a chemical environment.

The 150th Fighter Wing tested its members April 4-5 on their deployment capabilities and ability to survive and operate in austere conditions.

“We constantly train for deployment,” said Col. R. Kim Hunter, 150th Fighter Wing commander. “It is essential we maintain readiness for combat conditions so when asked to deploy, we can fulfill our missions in any challenging environment.”

Wing members were tasked in two phases of this ‘deployment.’ The first phase tested unit members’ ability to process through a mobility line. The second phase gave the opportunity for members to hone their skills at their jobs while in full chemical warfare ensemble.

Members started their ‘deployment tasking’ by getting ready and going through an outprocessing line supported by the 377th Air Base Wing. When outprocessing, members are expected to have all their personal, legal affairs and medical records in order.

If a member is not up-to-date in any one area, it could cause delays in outprocessing, which in turn, could impact fulfilling a particular mission successfully.

“Outprocessing on-time is key for a successful deployment,” said Chief Master Sgt. John Montford, 150th Fighter Wing command chief master sergeant. “If any one member is held up from leaving on time due to his or her records being outdated, then valuable time is lost. We spend a lot of time

each month making sure our members have their records current.”

After going through the outprocessing stations, members go to the deployment center, where they await transportation to their ‘deployment location.’

Once outprocessing is completed, unit members board a bus and are “on their way to their forward operating area.”

In this case, transportation from the deployment center to their ‘forward operating location’ took about 20 minutes. ‘Deploying’ Guardsmen were shuttled from the base Deployment Center and back to the 150th Fighter Wing campus area.

After arriving at their “forward operating location,” wing members could expect anything to happen at anytime. Even under the worst of conditions, the Guardsmen know their work must still go on and the mission must be accomplished.

It wasn’t long before the Guardsmen realized the “worst case scenario.” The warning came to suit up in their chemical warfare gear ensemble. This ensemble is designed to protect people from direct exposure to chemical, biological and nuclear agents.

Working in a simulated chemical attack, Guardsmen continued their work wearing the full chemical warfare gear ensemble, including the mask with filter.

“Working in this suit is a little slower,” Montford said, “You have to pace yourself but you are protected, healthy and able to complete your mission.”

Without exception, Guardsmen have to be trained and ready at a moment’s notice to deploy and survive any condition anywhere. Wing members take readiness seriously.



**We have contact**

Sunset Elementary fifth grader Ashley Steffens explores the mock Martian colony in Hangar 1002. The Air Force Research Laboratory Mars Odyssey Mission Colony called “Marsville” is a project of student-developed life support systems for potential astronauts who may someday visit Mars. The Mars exercise is based on the Cosmic Village Program of the Challenger Center’s Marsville. Students from all over New Mexico participated in the annual project.



Photo by Todd Berenger